

Message Text

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S E C R E T PARIS 12286

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NESCO

E. O. 11652: GDS-1

TAGS: PORG, OCON, UNESCO, US

SUBJECT: UNESCO 97TH EXBD MOVE TOWARD CONSENSUS ON
REGIONAL GROUP ISSUE

1. DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH STULL AT DINNER MAY 14 GIVEN BY BELGIAN PERMREP VAN USSEL, THERE EMERGED AGREEMENT AMONG VAN USSEL, SYRIAN AMBASSADOR HASAN MURAYWID AND EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR UNESCO EL-WAKIL THAT WHEREAS EXBD RESOLUTION ON REGIONAL GROUP ISSUE WOULD PROVE CONTENTIOUS AND THUS INADVISABLE AT THIS TIME, A CONSENSUS STATEMENT BY EXBD PRESIDENT WINTER REAFFIRMING RIGHT OF FULL PARTICIPATION BY ALL UNESCO MEMBERS WOULD BE MANAGEABLE AND SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN. OTHER EXBD MEMBERS PRESENT, IRAN, MAYED RAHNEMA, MAURITANIA, OULD SIDI HAIBA, PHILIPPINES, MADAME ALDALN-LIM, APPEARED TO SHARE THIS VIEW. PARLIAMENTARY ARGUMENT ADVANCED IN SUPPORT WAS THAT CONSENSUS STATEMENT NOT SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT AND LIKELY TO RESULT IN CLEARER EXPRESSION, AS WELL AS ABSENCE OF CONFRONTATION AND, OF COURSE, OF DIVISIVE VOTING.

2. WEIGHT WAS GIVEN TO ABOVE AGREEMENT BY LEADINGROLEROLE
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OF SYRIAN PERMREP WHO IS MEMBER OF WORKING GROUP ON

DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT. SYRIAN PERMREP ADDED THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO PRESENT WHAT HE ALLEGED TO BE EVIDENCE OF CURRENT FURTHER ISRAELI DESECRATIONS OF JERUSALEM. HE AGREED WITH STULL, HOWEVER, THAT JERUSALEM IS ISSUE UPON WHICH EXBD CANNOT HAVE CONSTRUCTIVE INFLUENCE IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, AND THAT STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH APPLIED TO EXBD DELIBERATIONS WOULD ARGUE FOR FOCUSING ON REGIONAL GROUP QUESTION WHERE POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION CAN BE MADE. HOPEFULLY, SYRIAN PERMREP MAY HAVE BEEN PERSUADED TO DOWNPLAY JERUSALEM ISSUE, ALTHOUGH HIS INSTRUCTIONS EVIDENTLY FIRM AND HE PERSONALLY AGITATED. THIS REGARD, SYRIAN PERMREP DISMISSED ANY POSSIBLE LEMAIRE VISIT AS INHERENTLY WITHOUT SIGNIFICANCE.

3. ABOVE DISCUSSION WAS NOTABLY CORDIAL WITH PROFUSE PROTESTATIONS FROM ARABS OF GOOD WILL FOR AMERICA, AND OF APPRECIATION FOR US MEDIATION ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST WHICH SEEN AS ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN WHAT SYRIAN PERMREP TERMED UNIQUELY PROPITIOUS COMBINATION OF CIRCUMSTANCES IN ALL COUNTRIES CONCERNED EXCEPT ISRAEL. ALL PRESENT SEIZED HAPPILY UPON SUGGESTION FROM MAURITANIAN PERMREP THAT 100TH EXBD SESSION MEET IN US (SEPTEMBER 1976) TO MARK AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL AND SIGNAL US RECONCILIATION WITH UNESCO.

4. COMMENT: WE JUDGE CONSENSUS STATEMENT IS BEST WE CAN GET AT THIS EXBD AND, ACCORDINGLY, WE PLAN TO GO ALONG WITH SUCH INITIATIVE PROVIDED LANGUAGE DOES NOT WEAKEN GOOD STATEMENT ON FULL PARTICIPATION MADE TO EXBD MAY 13 BY DIRECTOR GENERAL. CONCURRENTLY WE SHALL CONTINUE EFFORT TO COOL SYRIAN PERMREP ON JERUSALEM ISSUE.
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